

Dear Friends,

It's that time of year again when you hear from me in my role as coordinator of our OCIA program, formerly known as RCIA. Although the letters are different, the focus remains the same: inviting others to come to know Christ through learning about the Catholic faith. This is such an exciting opportunity!

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process by which the church brings in new converts and educates catechumens (unbaptized) and candidates (baptized in another Christian faith), has been a staple in Catholic life for years. Recently, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops changed the name, reorienting the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) into the new Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). The change from “**rite**” to “**order**” is in part due to a retranslation of the Latin name into English. The use of the word ‘Order’ emphasizes the continual development candidates and catechumens go through in the faith formation process.

This new translation is more comprehensive, however the goal remains the same: to accompany individuals on a journey of faith and conversion as they come to know Christ and His invitation to become a disciple. This is accomplished through reflection, reading Sacred Scripture and becoming familiar with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

For those who are interested in becoming Catholic, desiring to finish their initiation sacraments or just learning more about the Catholic faith, please prayerfully consider joining us in the fall when we begin our OCIA program. It is also important to invite others who you know may be interested- a personal invitation can go a long way!

We are truly blessed to continue our collaboration with St. Mary's Clyde, St. Michael's Gibsonburg, St. Mary's Millersville, St. Boniface Oak Harbor, Our Lady of Lourdes Genoa, St. Joseph Fremont and St. Ann Fremont parishes. It has been a gift to meet other interested individuals, to work and pray together with their pastor, pastoral leader and team members with the common goal of growing in a personal relationship with Christ while learning about the Catholic faith.

Also, please prayerfully consider serving in the OCIA ministry as a sponsor or member of the team. It will make a difference in your life, in the life of our parish, and in the lives of those on the OCIA journey.

To receive more information, please call the parish office and ask for me. Please leave a message if I am unavailable at the time and I will be sure to get back with you.

Have a blessed week,
Elaine